

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 9 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, February 27, 2013 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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The old becomes new in Cape May

Above, work on the water tower at Columbia and Madison is supposed to be completed in May prior to Memorial Day. The city elected to rehabilitate the 78-year-old tower instead of replace it. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said it should give another 50 years of life to the water tower. Support rods and other pieces are being replaced and it is being repainted inside and out. Below, Washington Street from Franklin to Ocean is getting resurfacing and water, sanitary and storm sewer lines are being replaced. The project should be completed by the end of March, weather permitting.



SBA disaster loan deadline March 1

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is advising Cape May County residents the deadline for applying for Federal Disaster Loans through its agency is Friday, March 1. “We’re trying to do a last minute blitz,” Karen Knapik, public affairs specialist with the SBA said. “We’re reaching out to homeowners and renters who might not be eligible for FEMA assistance.” According to Knapik, many people could have suffered some damage that FEMA funding doesn’t cover. However, as part of the process of applying to FEMA, the individuals might have also received an application for a loan through SBA. Knapik said that should not be overlooked.

“In times of disaster, this Federal Disaster Loan primarily helps residents and renters who might have lost something like a furnace. There are lots of those

kinds of things that happen,” she said.

Knapik said FEMA helps with grants if people need to go to hotel or buy food.

“We are the source for rebuilding, repairing and mitigation,” she said.

SBA can offer up to \$200,000 for homeowners, up to \$40,000 for personal property for either homeowners or their renters, up to \$2 million for physical property damage to businesses of any size, and up to \$2 million in working capital for small businesses and non-profits.

Interest rates can be as low as 1.688 percent for homeowners and renters, 3 percent for private non-profit organizations, and 4 percent for businesses.

There are terms of up to 30 years to repay the loan.

Knapik said if there is a need to repair or mitigate people need to act before the deadline. She said she has been visiting town halls around Cape May County, and the biggest concern is insurance. She said if the

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Open Mic Part II: The stew thickens

This is Part II of a feature on open mic events in Cape May and the local area. The story continues with more input from participants in the Pilot House’s Open Mic Night.

By KEVIN MCKINNEY
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – It’s later in the evening now at the Pilot House Friday Open Mic. The stew has been simmering for sometime now and it’s starting to thicken. Full house. And there’s a growing sense that the best music is yet to come.

“That’s what’s so great about the open mic,” said Pilot House owner Frank Hine. “The later it gets, the better it tends to get. We may start out with just a few musicians early on in the night. By the end of the night though, we could end up with a good bunch of musicians playing together for the first time.”

It was Hine’s wife, Deirdre, who cooked up the idea for the Pilot House Friday Night Open Mic with the night’s moderator, folk guitarist/singer Barry Tischler. Tischler, a fellow businessman, with his wife Susan, who owns Kaleidoscope, a wom-



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Above, P.K. Lavengood plays a pink Hello Kitty guitar and Walter Sapsai Jr. plays bass in the house band at the R.O.C.K. Monday Open Mic at the Shamrock Cafe in Wildwood. The house band will back up singers and other musicians during the open mic. Such events are popping up all over.

en’s clothing store on the Washington Street Mall.

“You just don’t know who is going to show up as far as musicians or customers,” Hine said. “And that’s what makes it so fun.”

From bar stools, booths and tables, regulars and newcomers watch and listen. Some sing along. Busy bartenders Debbie Bove and Dawn Ford groove on the live music, maybe sing out

on a favorite tune as they pour a drink or punch the keys of the cash register.

That was local favorite, singer/guitarist Rose Kelly, who just finished her set

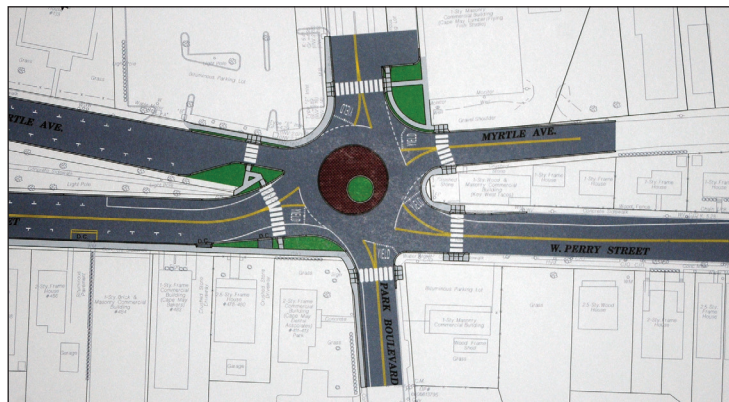
Roundabout proposed at Park, Perry and Myrtle

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Engineers from the Urban Engineers out of Cherry Hill presented preliminary designs for a roundabout at the intersection of Park Boulevard, Perry Street and Myrtle Avenue.

According to Cape May County Engineer Dale Foster, Urban Engineers was awarded a contract for the design of a roundabout for the six-leg intersection.

He said one of the problems with a roundabout is that people are initially against it, but as they see how it works they tend to get more comfortable with it.



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Above, a rendering of a proposed traffic “roundabout” for the intersections of Park Boulevard, Perry Street and Myrtle Avenue in West Cape May.

Steve Locke and Adam Brown from Urban Engineers gave a presentation on the roundabout to about 15 West

Cape May citizens (not counting public officials), answering questions as they went. They said the idea of the meeting was to be an informal one, where they could talk to the engineers and walk through the project.

Locke said there were currently no roundabouts in Cape May County, although they have been installed in some communities in North Jersey and Princeton. He said while they might be new to the area, there are about 3,000 roundabouts in use across the United States.

“They are safer than a signal,” Locke said.

According to a handout pro-

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Not everyone wants their home on historic list

By PAUL GRISER
For the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Talk concerning the updating of Cape May’s list of historical structures heated up during last Tuesday’s City Council Meeting.

Sandy Johnson stood at the podium in front of city council and asked why her house on Washington Street was now deemed to have historical value.

“I have two pillars in front of my house,” Johnson said, “But where is there historical value? My home has no

historic value.”

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, a survey was created to observe homes in Cape May for possible historical value. Owners of the homes deemed to have historical value are restricted in the degree of exterior changes they can make on the structure; including siding, painting and roofing.

Of the 349 properties looked at in the most recent survey, MacLeod said 272 properties resulted in no change of historical value, while 77 properties did receive a change in status.

The city goes through the survey process every so often, and MacLeod said the city has the goal of researching 1,500 homes.

Johnson remembers a time when Cape May didn’t consider her home historic. Johnson said during a similar survey done in 1993, the city deemed her home to be “non-contributing” to the historic district.

“If I need to re-side my house, I’m re-siding my house. I’m not painting it in Victorian colors,” Johnson said.

Letters were sent to the res-

idents of the 77 homes, and several showed up to voice their disapproval of the new ordinance.

In Johnson’s case, Mayor Ed Mahaney agreed to modify the ordinance and remove her home from the updated historic structure list.

In other council business, approval of the city’s 2013 local municipal budget was also discussed, as auditor Leon Costello briefly presented the council with an introductory budget, which calls for a projected 1.5 percent

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